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THE WILDEST SUPER-HERO EVER--BECAUSE HE'S REAL!
THE HUMAN FLY
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TM
MOTORCYCLE MAYHEM!
CARNIVAL CARNAGE!
AND THE FLY'S
DEADLIEST CHALLENGE!
REFRESHMENTS
Hot Dogs
MURDER ON THE MIDWAY!

One night in 1971 on a lonely North Carolina highway, a head-on *car crash* cost a young driver his family—and, very nearly, his *life!* Hardly a bone in his body remained *unbroken*. His doctors were *sure* that he would never *move* again. But he *triumphed* over his disability and went on to become the *wildest hero* of all—because he's *REAL!*

Stan Lee PRESENTS: THE HUMAN FLY!™

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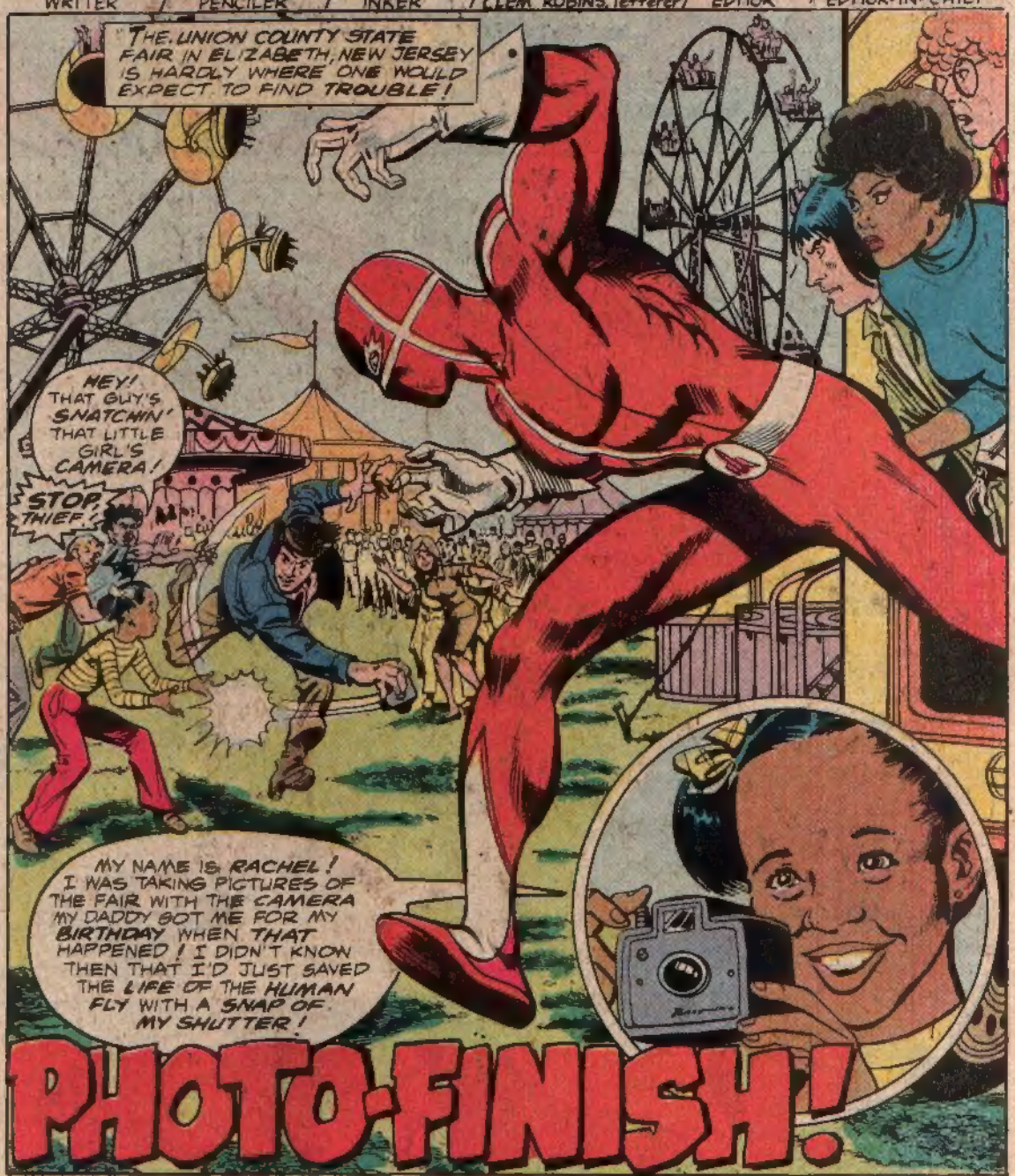
"THE UNION COUNTY STATE FAIR IN ELIZABETH, NEW JERSEY IS HARDLY WHERE ONE WOULD EXPECT TO FIND TROUBLE!
HEY! THAT GUY'S SNATCHIN' THAT LITTLE GIRL'S CAMERA!
STOP, THIEF!
MY NAME IS RACHEL! I WAS TAKING PICTURES OF THE FAIR WITH THE CAMERA MY DADDY GOT ME FOR MY BIRTHDAY WHEN THAT HAPPENED! I DIDN'T KNOW THEN THAT I'D JUST SAVED THE LIFE OF THE HUMAN FLY WITH A SNAP OF MY SHUTTER!

PHOTO-FINISH!

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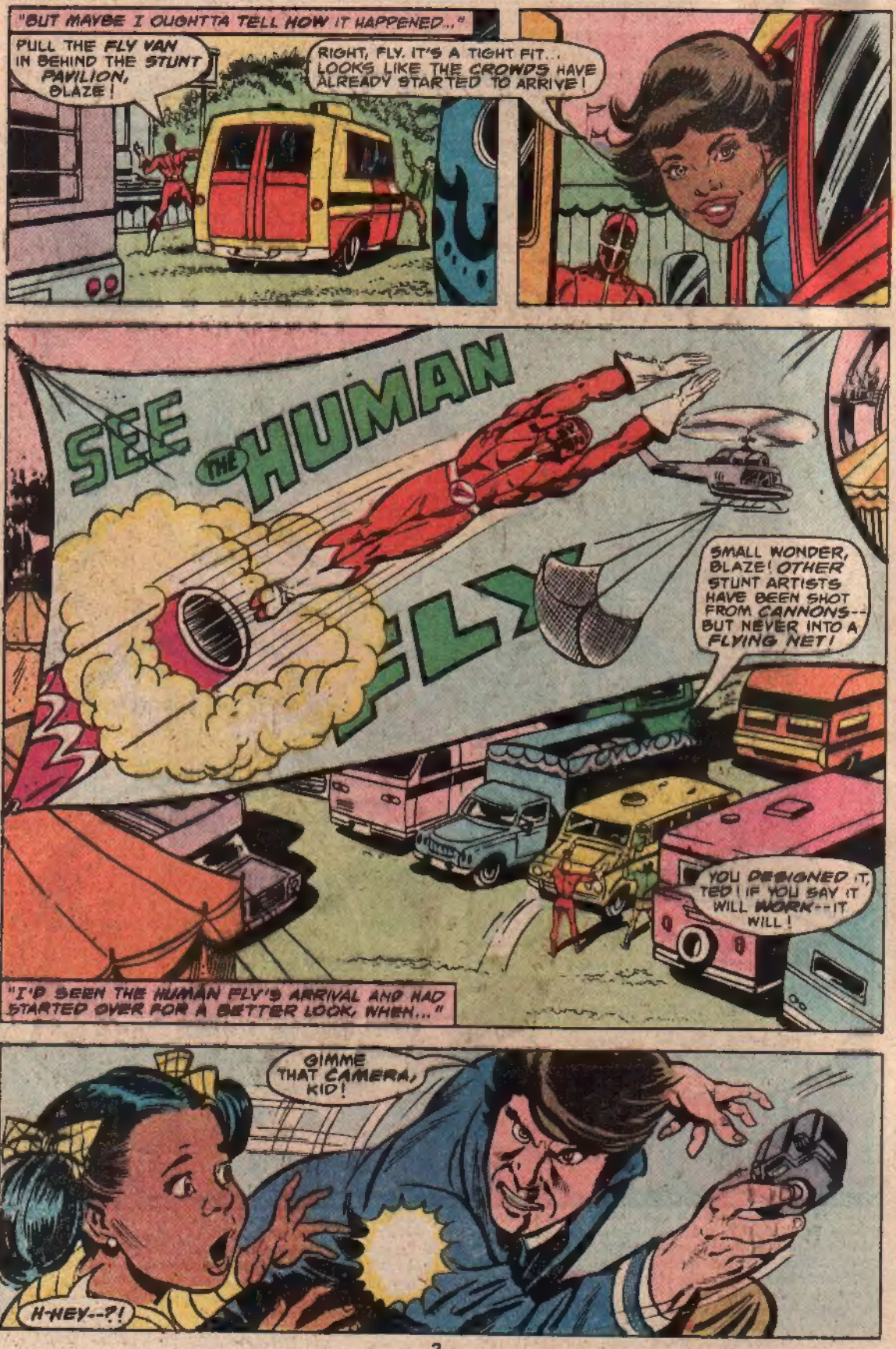
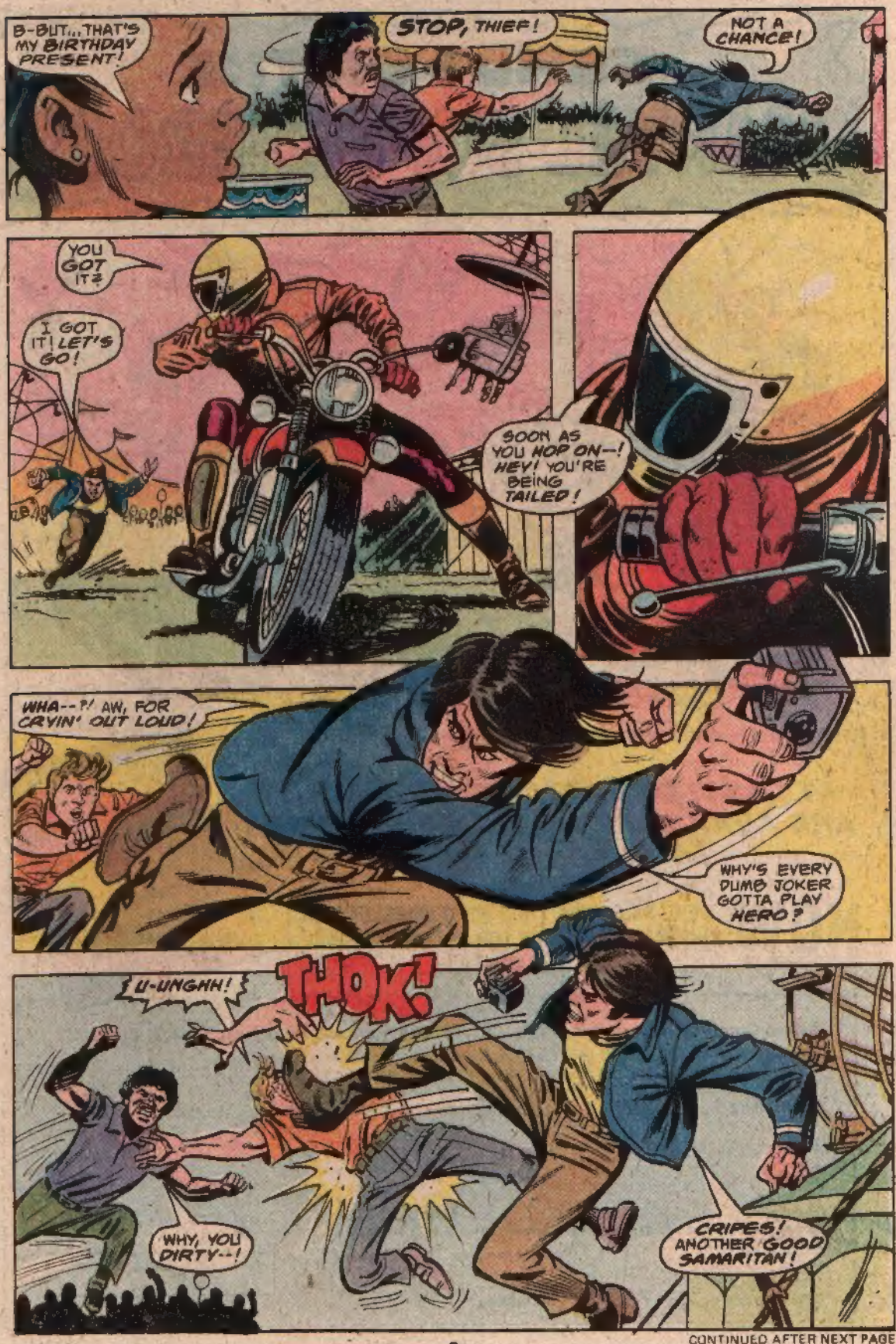

"BUT MAYBE I OUGHTTA TELL HOW IT HAPPENED..."
PULL THE FLY VAN IN BEHIND THE STUNT PAVILION, BLAZE!
RIGHT, FLY. IT'S A TIGHT FIT.. LOOKS LIKE THE CROWDS HAVE ALREADY STARTED TO ARRIVE!
SEE THE HUMAN FLY
SMALL WONDER, BLAZE! OTHER STUNT ARTISTS HAVE BEEN SHOT FROM CANNONS--BUT NEVER INTO A FLYING NET!
YOU DESIGNED IT, TED! IF YOU SAY IT WILL WORK--IT WILL!
"I'D SEEN THE HUMAN FLY'S ARRIVAL AND HAD STARTED OVER FOR A BETTER LOOK, WHEN..."
GIMME THAT CAMERA, KID!
H-HEY--?!


B-BUT... THAT'S MY BIRTHDAY PRESENT!
STOP, THIEF!
NOT A CHANCE!
YOU GOT IT?
I GOT IT! LET'S GO!
SOON AS YOU HOP ON—! HEY! YOU'RE BEING TAILED!
WHA--?! AW, FOR CRYIN' OUT LOUD!
WHY'S EVERY DUMB JOKER GOTTA PLAY HERO?
U-UNGHH!
THOK!
WHY, YOU DIRTY--!
CRIPES! ANOTHER GOOD SAMARITAN!

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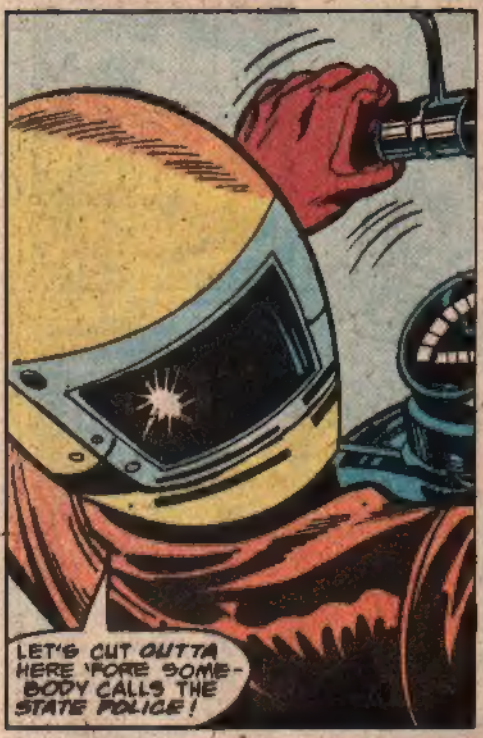
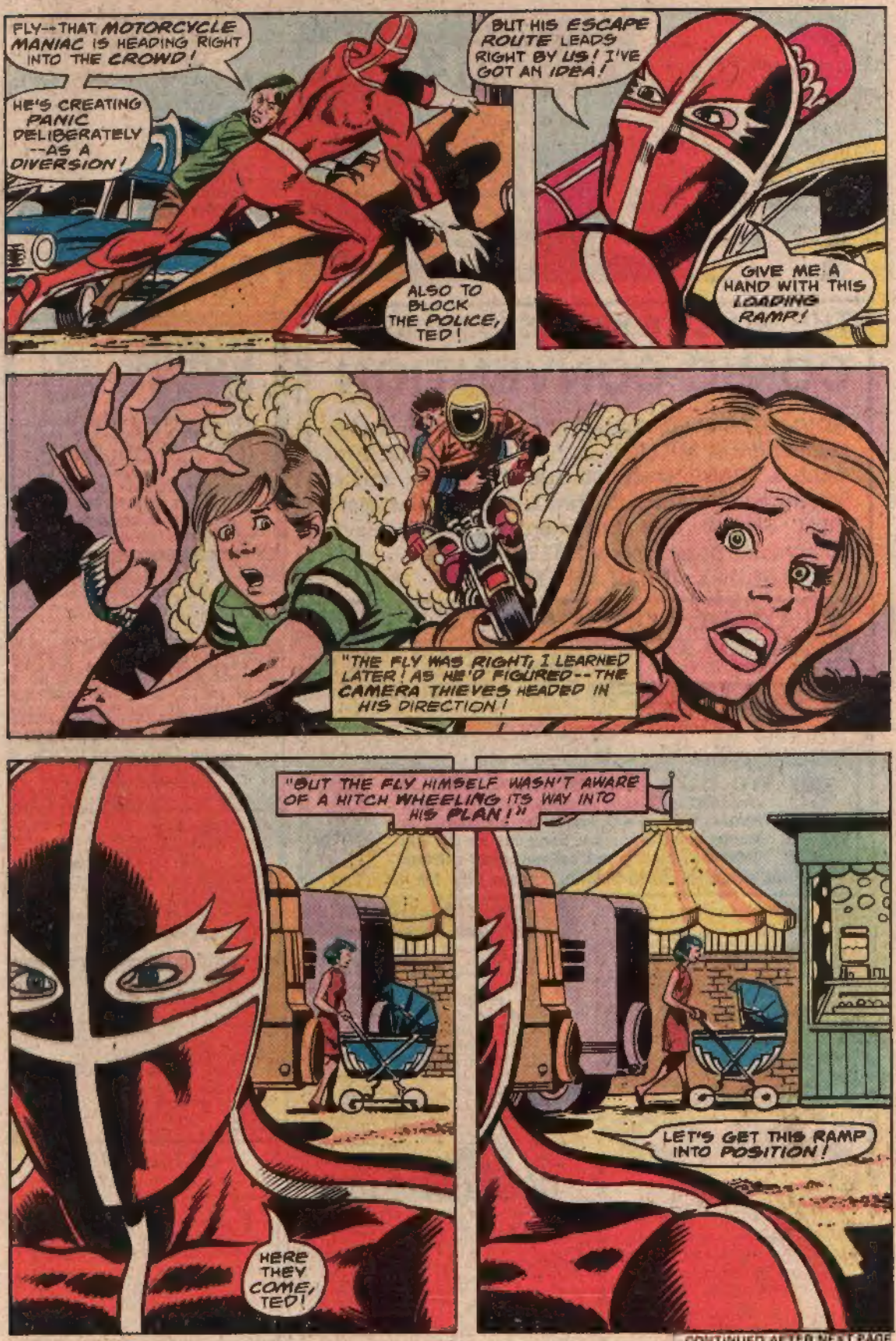
WHY DON'TCHA TAKE A LESSON FROM YOUR FRIEND, BUDDY--
--AN' STAY DOWN WHEN I SLUG YA?!
COME ON, WILL YA?


LET'S CUT OUTTA HERE 'FORE SOMEBODY CALLS THE STATE POLICE!

RIGHT BEHIND YA, ACE!
IT'S ABOUT TIME!
VROARRRR

L-LOOK OUT!
THEY--THEY'RE COMING RIGHT AT US!
VROOM


FLY--THAT MOTORCYCLE MANIAC IS HEADING RIGHT INTO THE CROWD!
HE'S CREATING PANIC DELIBERATELY --AS A DIVERSION!
ALSO TO BLOCK THE POLICE, TED!
BUT HIS ESCAPE ROUTE LEADS RIGHT BY US! I'VE GOT AN IDEA!
GIVE ME A HAND WITH THIS LOADING RAMP!
"THE FLY WAS RIGHT, I LEARNED LATER! AS HE'D FIGURED--THE CAMERA THIEVES HEADED IN HIS DIRECTION!
"BUT THE FLY HIMSELF WASN'T AWARE OF A HITCH WHEELING ITS WAY INTO HIS PLAN!"
HERE THEY COME, TED!
LET'S GET THIS RAMP INTO POSITION!

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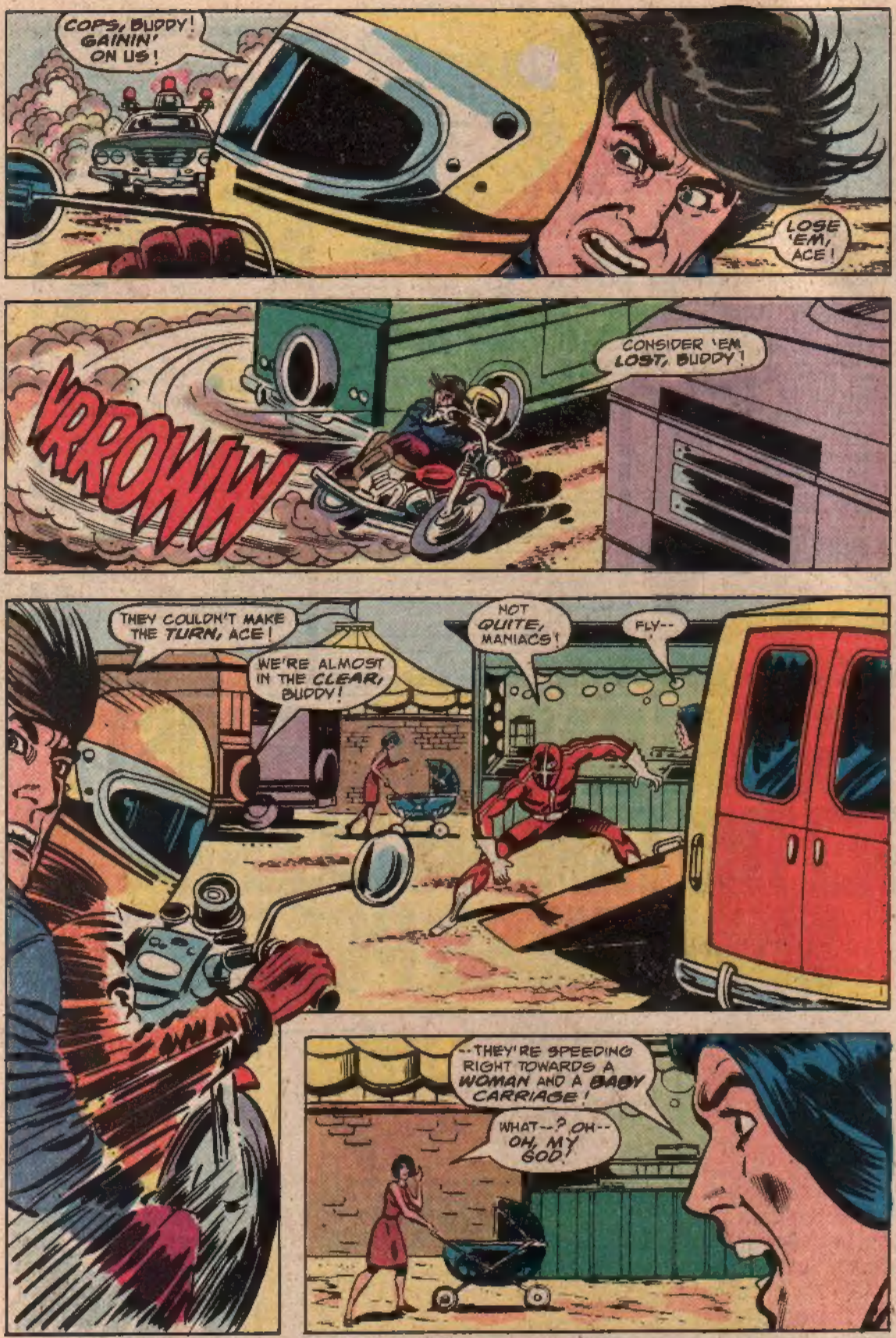
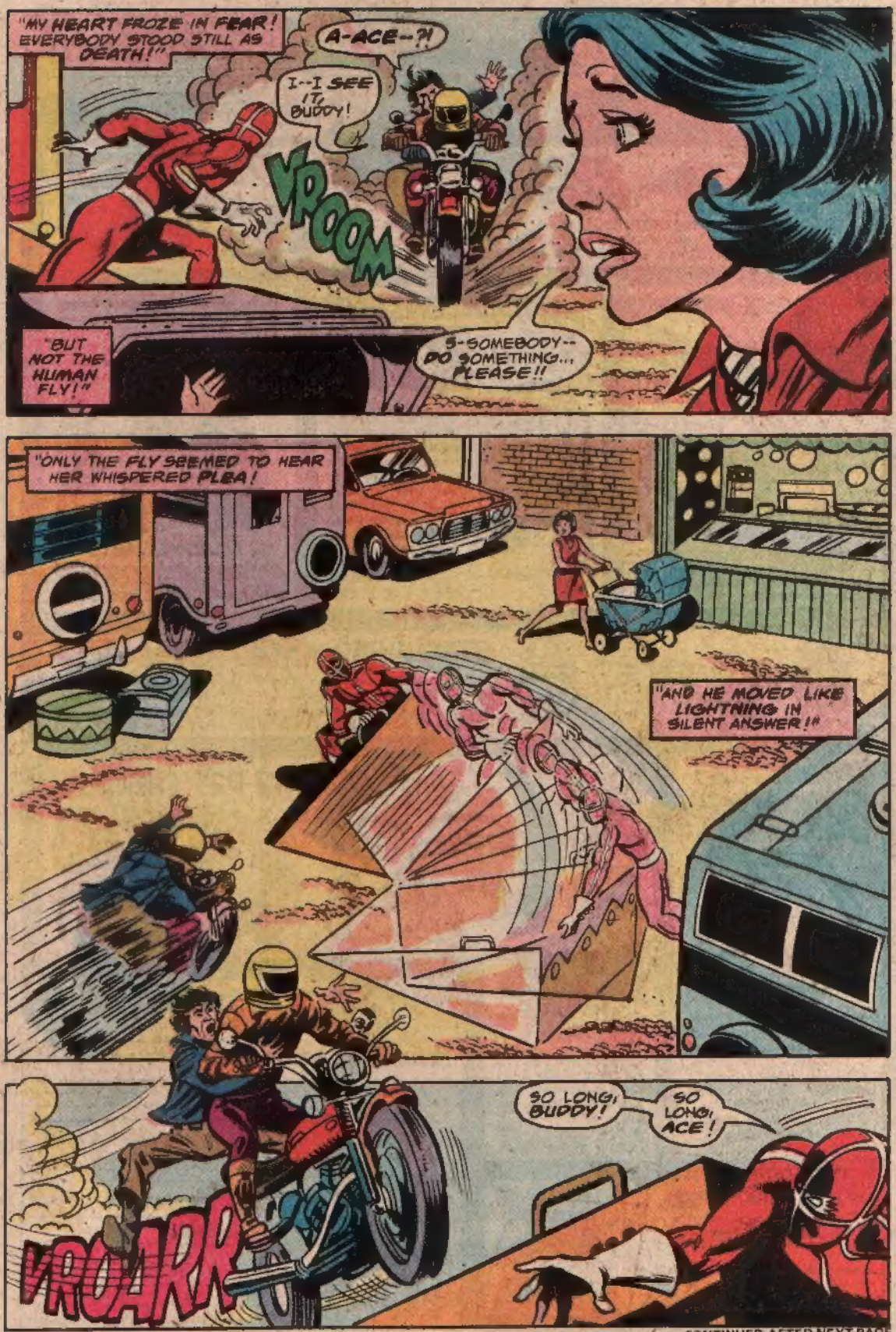

COPS, BUDDY! GAININ' ON US!
LOSE 'EM, ACE!
VRROWW
CONSIDER 'EM LOST, BUDDY!
THEY COULDN'T MAKE THE TURN, ACE!
WE'RE ALMOST IN THE CLEAR, BUDDY!
NOT QUITE, MANIACS!
FLY--
AWAA
--THEY'RE SPEEDING RIGHT TOWARDS A WOMAN AND A BABY CARRIAGE!
WHAT--? OH-- OH, MY GOD!


"MY HEART FROZE IN FEAR! EVERYBODY STOOD STILL AS DEATH!"
A-ACE--?!
I--I SEE IT, BUDDY!
VROOM
"BUT NOT THE HUMAN FLY!"
S-SOMEBODY-- DO SOMETHING... PLEASE!!
"ONLY THE FLY SEEMED TO HEAR HER WHISPERED PLEA!
"AND HE MOVED LIKE LIGHTNING IN SILENT ANSWER!"
SO LONG, BUDDY!
SO LONG, ACE!
VROARR

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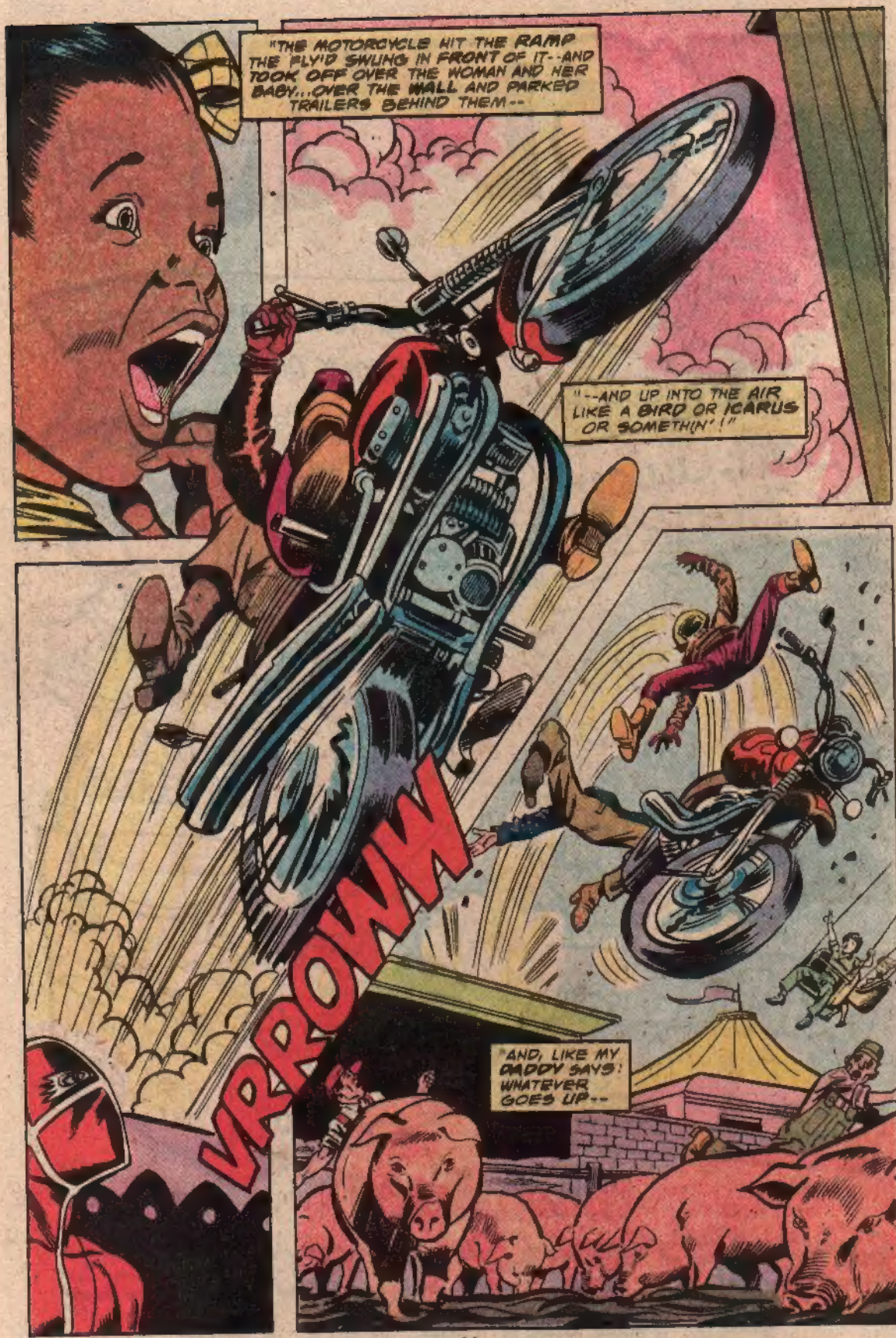
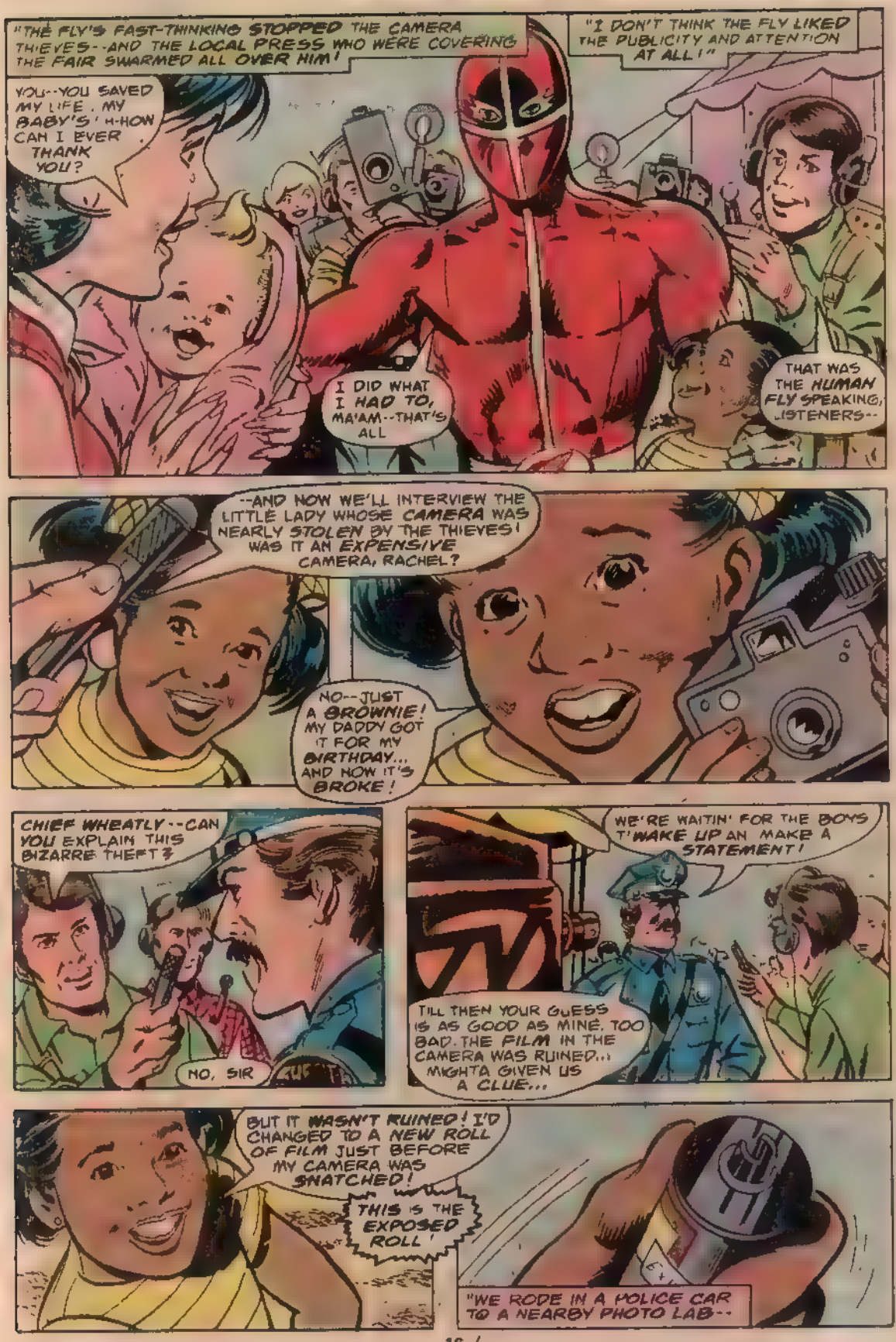

"THE MOTORCYCLE HIT THE RAMP THE FLY'D SWUNG IN FRONT OF IT--AND TOOK OFF OVER THE WOMAN AND HER BABY...OVER THE WALL AND PARKED TRAILERS BEHIND THEM--
"--AND UP INTO THE AIR LIKE A BIRD OR ICARUS OR SOMETHIN'!"
VRROWW
"AND, LIKE MY DADDY SAYS: WHATEVER GOES UP--

"--HAS TO COME DOWN!"
ACE--?!
Y-YEAH, BUDDY--?
SPLOOSH
"I THINK DADDY CALLED IT A CLICHE!
RUUNK! RUNK!
RUNNK!

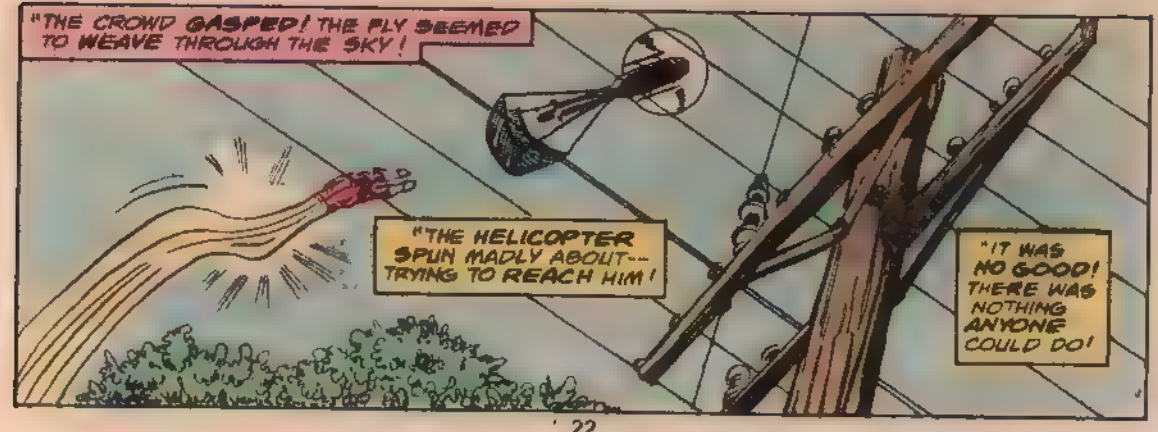

"THE FLY'S FAST-THINKING STOPPED THE CAMERA THIEVES--AND THE LOCAL PRESS WHO WERE COVERING THE FAIR SWARMED ALL OVER HIM!
"I DON'T THINK THE FLY LIKED THE PUBLICITY AND ATTENTION AT ALL!"
YOU--YOU SAVED MY LIFE. MY BABY'S! H-HOW CAN I EVER THANK YOU?
I DID WHAT I HAD TO, MA'AM--THAT'S ALL
THAT WAS THE HUMAN FLY SPEAKING, LISTENERS--
--AND NOW WE'LL INTERVIEW THE LITTLE LADY WHOSE CAMERA WAS NEARLY STOLEN BY THE THIEVES! WAS IT AN EXPENSIVE CAMERA, RACHEL?
NO--JUST A BROWNIE! MY DADDY GOT IT FOR MY BIRTHDAY... AND NOW IT'S BROKE!
CHIEF WHEATLY--CAN YOU EXPLAIN THIS BIZARRE THEFT?
NO, SIR
WE'RE WAITIN' FOR THE BOYS T'WAKE UP AN MAKE A STATEMENT!
TILL THEN YOUR GUESS IS AS GOOD AS MINE, TOO BAD. THE FILM IN THE CAMERA WAS RUINED... MIGHTA GIVEN US A CLUE...
BUT IT WASN'T RUINED! I'D CHANGED TO A NEW ROLL OF FILM JUST BEFORE MY CAMERA WAS SNATCHED!
THIS IS THE EXPOSED ROLL!
"WE RODE IN A POLICE CAR TO A NEARBY PHOTO LAB--

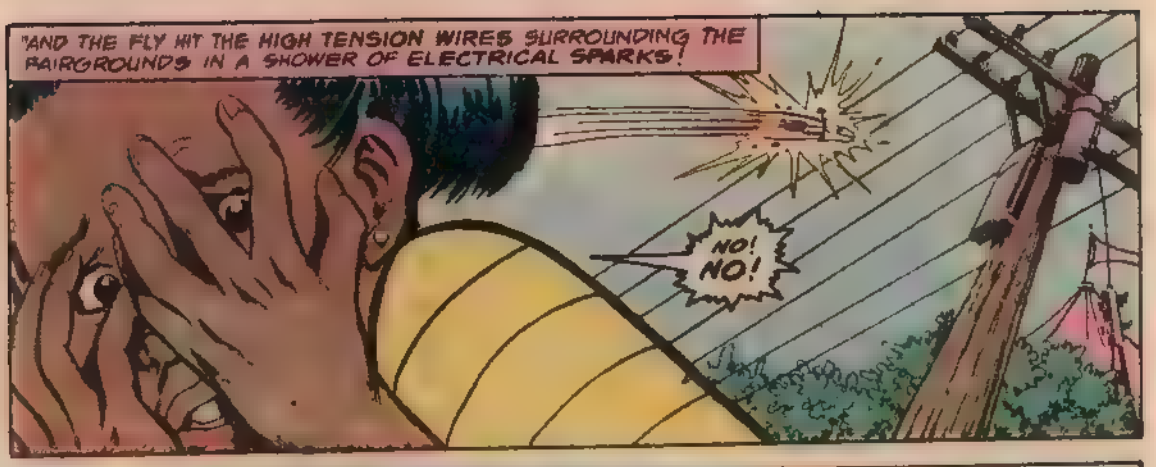
'--AND THE FILM WAS DEVELOPED BY THE FLY HIMSELF!"
ANYTHIN' THERE, MISTER?
I'M NOT SURE.
IT'S A PICTURE OF ONE OF THE CAMERA THIEVES, BUT.
TED, TAKE A LOOK AT THIS.
NO DOUBT ABOUT IT, FLY. RACHEL APPARENTLY PHOTOGRAPHED HIM WHILE HE WAS MONKEYING WITH THE CANNON YOU'LL BE USING IN YOUR STUNT TODAY
CAN YOU TELL ANYTHING FROM THE PICTURE TO INDICATE WHY?
HUMAN FLY
HE'S MESSING WITH THE TRAJECTORY CALIBRATIONS--I'LL HAVE TO CHECK THEM!
I'M THINKIN' YOU'LL FIND 'EM ALTERED, MR. LOCKE--AN' I EVEN GOT ME AN IDEA WHY!
LET'S HEAR IT CHIEF!
AS THE CHIEF EXPLAINED, MY EYES GOT REAL BIG! I HAD NO IDEA MY SNAPSHOT WOULD BE SO IMPORTANT!

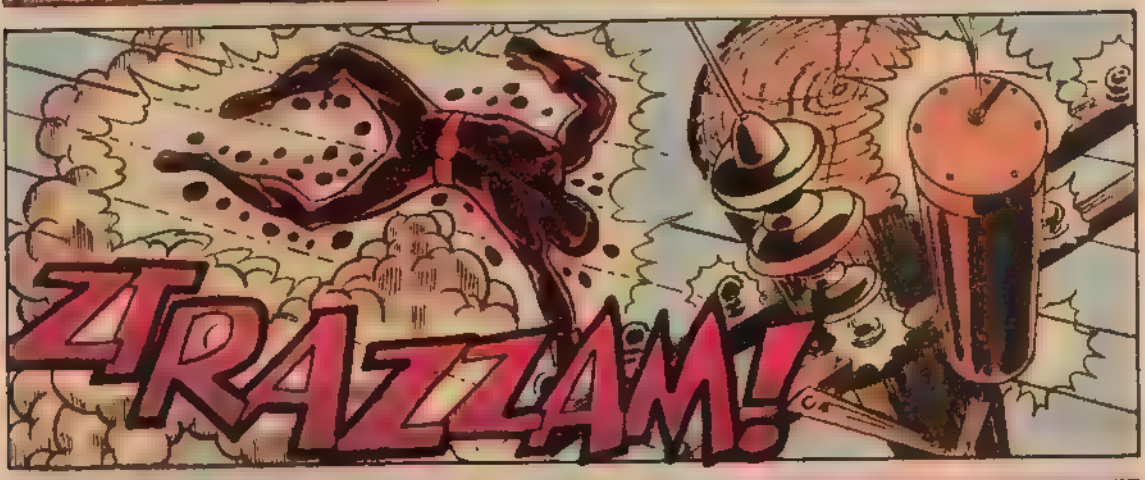
"BUT MY DADDY--WHO'S A WRITER--SAYS THAT I SHOULDN'T GIVE AWAY THE DRAMA OF THE STORY BEFORE IT'S DONE! WELL, WE RETURNED TO THE FAIRGROUNDS AS IF NOTHING WAS WRONG..."
THE STUNT CANNON CHECKS OUT A-OK, FLY! YOUR TRAJECTORY IS COMPUTER-SYNCHED WITH THE RETRIEVAL COPTER!
THERE'S NO WAY YOU CAN MISS THE FLYING NET!
"I TOOK MR LOCKE'S WORD FOR IT--BUT MY STOMACH WAS STILL DOING FLIPS! NOBODY HAD EVER TRIED THIS STUNT BEFORE!"
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN...THE HUMAN FLY WILL BECOME A HUMAN CANNONBALL IN FIVE MINUTES!
PLEASE TAKE YOUR PLACES AT THE GRANDSTAND...
"BLAZE KENDALL, THE FLY'S LADY PILOT, GUIDED THE NET-TOWING RETRIEVAL HELICOPTER INTO POSITION ABOVE THE FAIRGROUNDS.
"THE NET LOOKED LIKE AN AWFUL SMALL TARGET!"
I'M IN THE DRIVER'S SEAT, PEOPLE! YOU ALL READY DOWN THERE?

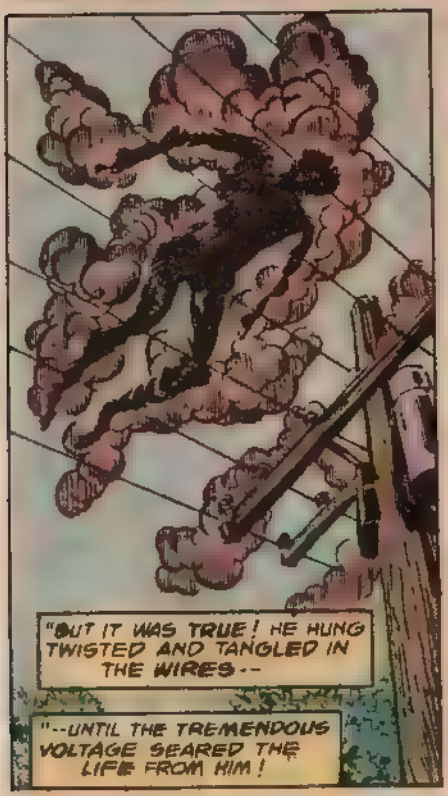
CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

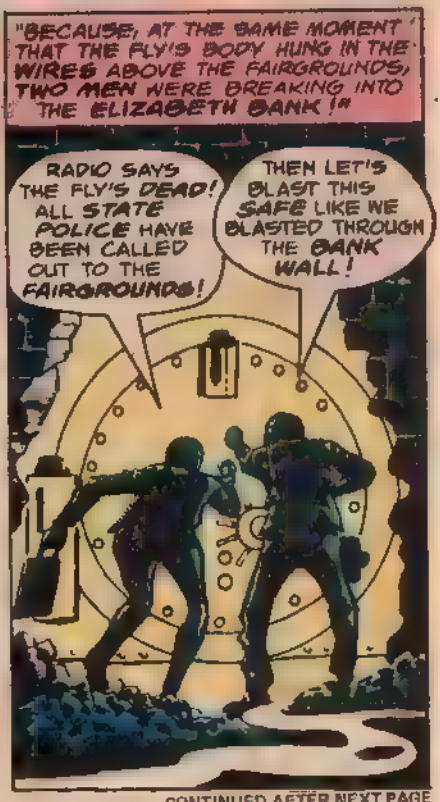
READY, BLAZE! BRACE YOURSELF, FLY--
KLAK
--YOU'RE OFF!
BAWHOOM!
S-SOMETHING'S WRONG! THE FLY ISN'T HEADING FOR THE NET! HE'S GONNA MISS IT!


"THE CROWD GASPED! THE FLY SEEMED TO WEAVE THROUGH THE SKY!
"THE HELICOPTER SPUN MADLY ABOUT--TRYING TO REACH HIM!
"IT WAS NO GOOD! THERE WAS NOTHING ANYONE COULD DO!








"BECAUSE, AT THE SAME MOMENT THAT THE FLY'S BODY HUNG IN THE WIRES ABOVE THE FAIRGROUNDS, TWO MEN WERE BREAKING INTO THE ELIZABETH BANK!"
RADIO SAYS THE FLY'S DEAD! ALL STATE POLICE HAVE BEEN CALLED OUT TO THE FAIRGROUNDS!
THEN LET'S BLAST THIS SAFE LIKE WE BLASTED THROUGH THE BANK WALL!

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THAT'S NOT NECESSARY! WITH THIS DEVICE WE CAN SIMPLY MELT THE SAFE'S TUMBLERS WITH CONTROLLED CURRENT!
YOU'RE THE TECHNOLOGICAL WIZARD!
ME--I JUST DO WHAT I'M TOLD!
BUDDY AND ACE SHOULD'VE BEEN SO SMART--BUT NOBODY'S WISED TO THEIR PART IN THIS YET!
WE'LL BAIL THEM OUT--WHEN THINGS COOL OFF!
HOW GET BACK! I'M TRIGGERING THE "SAFECRACKER!"
FFAASSHT!!
SHIELD YOUR EYES!
BUT THE GLARE OF THE MELTING SAFE LOCK WAS INTENSIFIED BY A BRILLIANCE FROM WITHIN THE SAFE ITSELF!
"THE BRILLIANCE OF TELEVISION FLOODLIGHTS AS THE HUMAN FLY AND THE WAITING STATE POLICE MOVED FROM INSIDE THE BANK SAFE TO APPREHEND THE BURGLARS!"
YOUR IDEA WORKED, CHIEF WHEATLY!
YEP. LOOKS LIKE IT DID, AT THAT.
"Y' SEE, THE CHIEF HAD FIGURED THAT MY PHOTOGRAPH HAD CAUGHT ONE GANG-MEMBER CHANGING THE CANNON'S TRAJECTORY--AND THEN THEY FOUND THAT SOMEONE HAD GROUNDED ONE OF THE POWER LINES! THE FLY'S DEATH WOULD DRAW THE STATE POLICE AWAY WHILE THE GANG ROBBED THE ONLY MAJOR LOCAL BANK!

"THE FLY AGREED TO HELP BY SUBSTITUTING A DUMMY IN THE CANNON FOR HIS STUNT! IT WAS THE DUMMY THAT "DIED!"
THE POLICE ASKED ME TO GIVE YOU THIS, RACHEL!
OH--A NEW CAMERA!
I JUST HOPE DADDY UNDERSTANDS ABOUT THE FIRST ONE!
HE WILL--ONCE YOU TELL HIM THE STORY OF WHAT HAPPENED--
--AND SHOW HIM THE PICTURES OF THE HUMAN FLY IN ACTION FOR REAL!
"I COULD HEAR THE CONFIDENCE IN MS. KENDALL'S VOICE OVER MR. LOCKE'S RADIO! THIS TIME THE RETRIEVAL HELICOPTER MOVED IN RIGHT ON TARGET!
PFWOOM!

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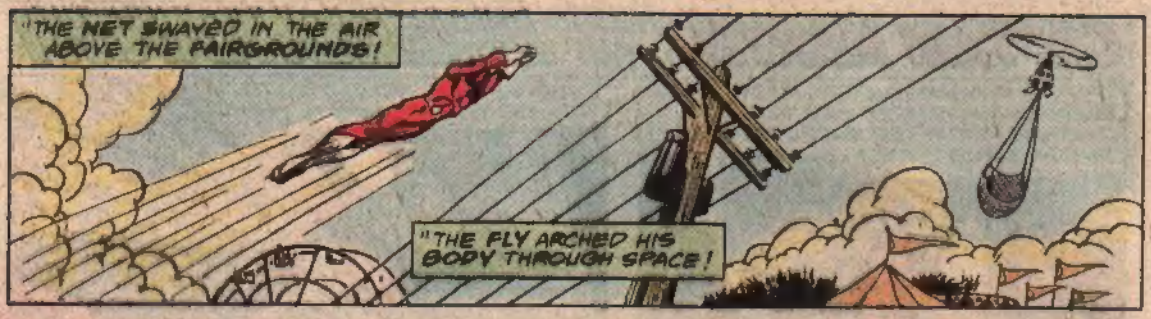
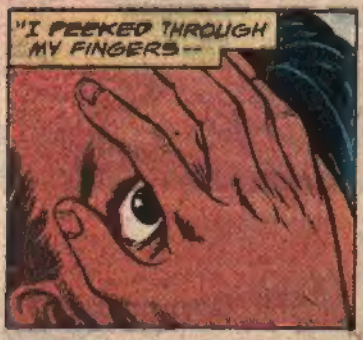
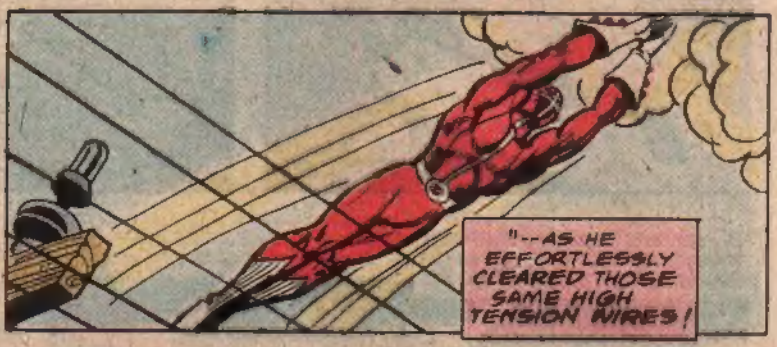
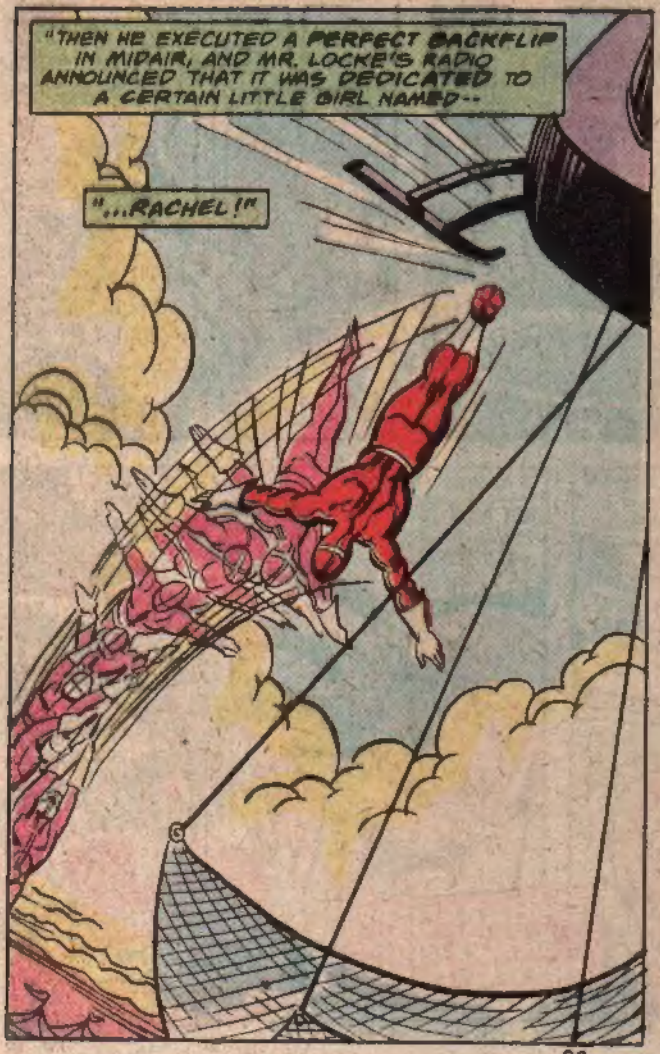
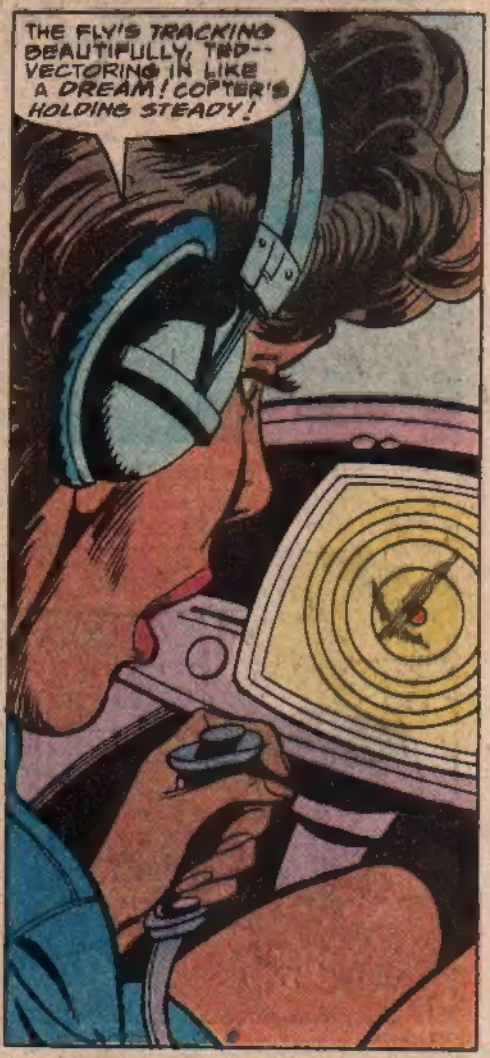
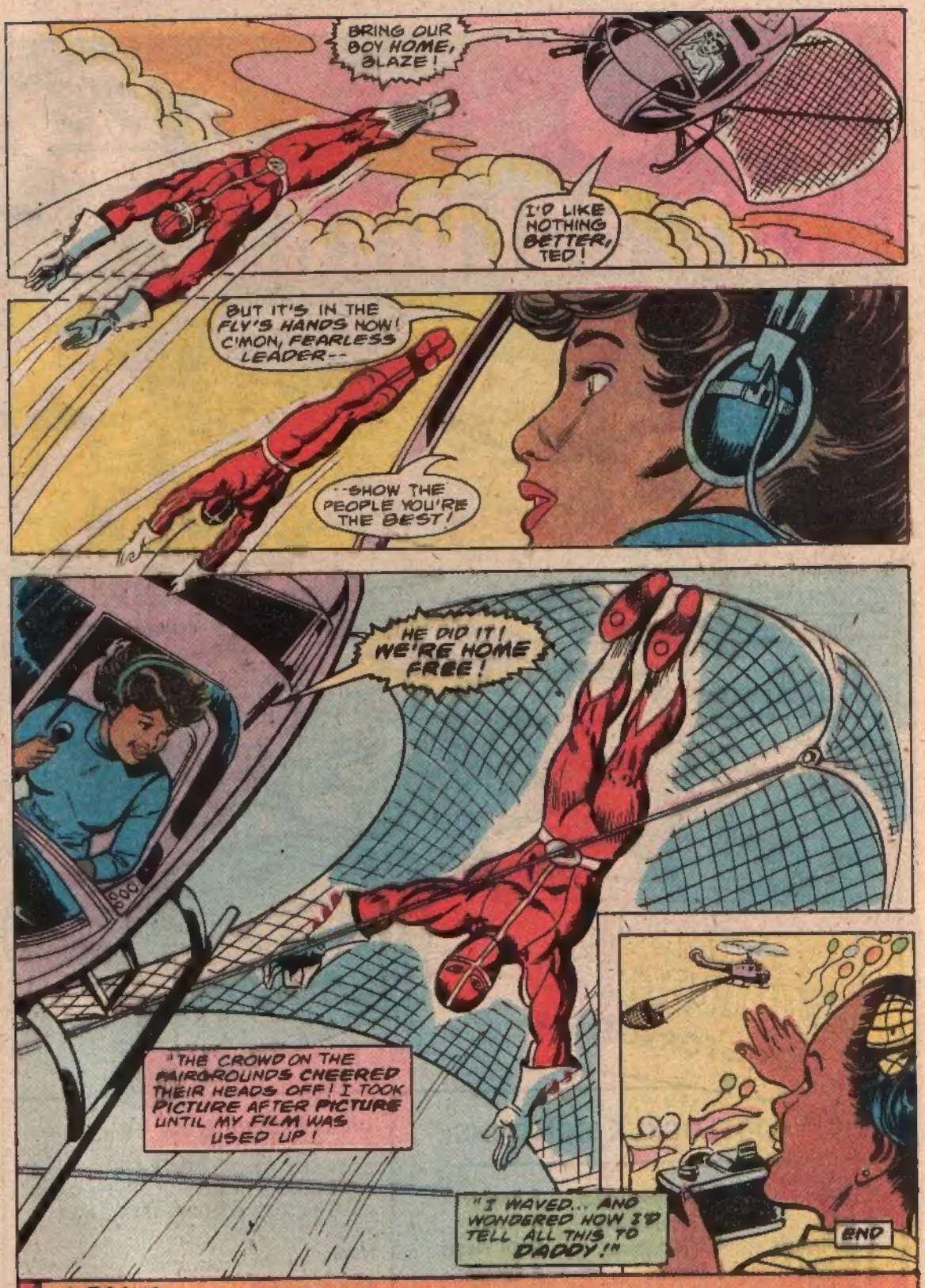

"THE NET SWAYED IN THE AIR ABOVE THE FAIRGROUNDS!
"THE FLY ARCHED HIS BODY THROUGH SPACE!


"I PEEKED THROUGH MY FINGERS--


"--AS HE EFFORTLESSLY CLEARED THOSE SAME HIGH TENSION WIRES!


"THEN HE EXECUTED A PERFECT BACKFLIP IN MIDAIR, AND MR. LOCKE'S RADIO ANNOUNCED THAT IT WAS DEDICATED TO A CERTAIN LITTLE GIRL NAMED--
"...RACHEL!"


THE FLY'S TRACKING BEAUTIFULLY, TED-- VECTORING IN LIKE A DREAM! COPTER'S HOLDING STEADY!


BRING OUR BOY HOME, BLAZE!
I'D LIKE NOTHING BETTER, TED!
BUT IT'S IN THE FLY'S HANDS NOW! C'MON, FEARLESS LEADER--
--SHOW THE PEOPLE YOU'RE THE BEST!
HE DID IT! WE'RE HOME FREE!
"THE CROWD ON THE FAIRGROUNDS CHEERED THEIR HEADS OFF! I TOOK PICTURE AFTER PICTURE UNTIL MY FILM WAS USED UP!
"I WAVED... AND WONDERED HOW I'D TELL ALL THIS TO DADDY!"
END
NEXT
A BRAND NEW, TWO PART
HUMAN FLY ADVENTURE!
BE HERE!

BULLPEN BULLETINS

STAN'S SOAPBOX

Y'know something? I thought I was making life easier for myself when I asked you to send me ideas for things to write about here in the Soapbox. But, you can't win! Now it takes longer to read all the letters than it used to take to think up my own subjects! But, I shouldn't really complain because some of your suggestions and ideas are really great. However, no matter how strongly you suggest it, I absolutely won't trade jobs with Irving Forbush—so stop sending those petitions, huh? (I didn't know ol' Irving had so many friends—who knew how to write!) Anyhow, here's a question that's cropped up in many many of your letters, so I might as well tackle it right now. "How do you explain the fact that mighty Marvel is so much better than its 'Distinguished Competition'?" (Boy, I dunno why I pick the tough ones!)

First of all, while I appreciate the implication inherent in the question, I must—in all fairness—reject it. We do our stories in a certain style, and they do theirs in their own way. To call one style "better" or "worse" is just a matter of opinion. Our competitors, and that includes Archie Comics, Harvey Comics, and Gold Key, as well as D.C., all have tremendously talented and capable artists and writers producing their books. In fact, many people working for other comicbook companies used to work for us at one time or other, and may do so again. A great many of them are long-time personal friends of ours. Some have learned their trade in the Marvel Bullpen, and some have helped to teach us ours.

I guess what I'm trying to say is, sure we want Marvel to be your favorite comicbooks, and sure we'll knock ourselves out to produce the best stories and artwork in the field. But we don't wanna succeed at anyone else's expense. We don't want you to feel you have to knock the other guy in order to be loyal to us. The better our competition is, the more it'll keep us on our toes—and the more you'll profit by it!

Okay, now that I've finished putting in my pitch for *all* the great guys and gals who toil in our little storybook world, let me admit that no one enjoys some friendly rivalry and spirited competition more than we do—just so long as you remember that the watchword is "friendly". Our competitors aren't the "bad guys". They can't help it if Marvel leads the way! (Whoops! There I go again!)

Anyway, now that I've ended my exemplary explation, I promise that next issue I'll give you a serious opinion as to the real difference in editorial approach and attitude between our competitors and Marvel. Remember, it'll just be one guy's opinion, but I think you may find it interesting. So, till then remember—we all need each other. Even a superhero can't do it alone!

Excelsior!

Stan

P.S. After I got this whole thing written, I remembered I said, last ish, that this time we'd answer the question "Is Irving Forbush a real person?" And now there's no room! Well, never fear. We'll get to that after next month's column—that'll give me two more months to figure out the answer myself!

ITEM! Did you hear that Marvel's latest entry in the humor field is becoming the magazine sensation of the year? Fans describe PIZZAZZ as sort of a cross between Crazy and the Lampoon. PIZZAZZ was originally planned just for the younger teenage reader, but you can't keep a dynamite idea under wraps for long—so now everybody's getting into it! It may sound like "pizza" with a couple of extra "z's", but if you really want to blow your mind with the most colorful slick-paper mag in town, just call for PIZZAZZ! Only 75¢! Hurry, before we come to our senses!

ITEM! Let's face it—*nobody* hits a home run every time he goes to bat. Even the mighty House of Ideas can't claim to be perfect. Every single issue of, say, DAREDEVIL or even the FANTASTIC FOUR, flagship of our line, isn't always going to turn out to be as wonderful as we'd hoped. Under the awesome pressure of monthly deadlines, every once in a while, something just doesn't work out right, and we have to settle for a triple or a double instead of the four-bagger. It isn't for lack of trying, guys, believe us! And, of course, it makes us feel all the more proud and happy when the creative combos are clicking, and we do come up with a real bases-loaded circuit blast! Like what, for instance, you inquire? Well-l-l! We're so glad you asked!

ITEM! Marvel Super Special #7, featuring the comics adaptation of box office blockbuster JAWS II is without a doubt the most dazzling comics magazine produced in recent history. It may *well* be the most beautiful comics magazine ever created! That's quite a statement, we realize, and yet we make it with utter confidence. In fact, we're so delighted and proud of this masterwork of our craft that we're going to dispense with the hard sell and take the space to thank those responsible. Our sincerest to Gentleman GENE COLAN for his powerful pencilling; to ingenious IRV WATANABE for his neat, precise calligraphy; to Terrific TOM PALMER for his superb inking, *and* for his stunning, masterful airbrush *coloring* the like of which we have never seen. Thanks also to Battlin' BOB LARKIN for the inspired cover painting, and special thanks and congratulations to offset editor Rakish RICK MARSCHALL who not only coordinated the free-lancers' efforts with the not-inconsiderable contributions of the Marvel Creative Staff, but found time to write the adaptation as well. JAWS II, in full, glorious color is on sale everywhere now! We wish we could just *give* everybody a copy, we're that proud, but go ahead, spend the $1.50. You won't regret it.

ITEM! Not content with merely *one* box-office smash adaptation, somehow in the midst of our usual chaos, we managed to fit in *another* full-color Masterpiece! We'll give you a hint: it's about the hottest rock movie of the year, featuring stars like Peter Frampton, The Bee Gees, and George Burns; it's magical, musical and was inspired by the greatest rock group of all time! Those of you who guessed *The Jasha Heifetz Story* can go back to dusting their Rachmaninoff albums. Those of you who correctly assumed we meant SGT. PEPPER'S LONELY HEARTS CLUB BAND, please step to the head of the class, then out the door and to your newsstand! Take a buck and a half with you, ask for Marvel Super Special #8, and *don't* take no for an answer! We can't wait to hear your reaction to the wonderful work of DAVE (the Dude) KRAFT, GEORGE (Pacesetter) PEREZ, JIM (Madman) MOONEY and the rest of our crack creative team!

ITEM! Yes, there's *more*—the most requested encore in Marvel history to be exact! Once again, it's KISS, the fieriest, most fabulous, most frantic rock group *ever*, appearing in Marvel Super Special #5! It's in full, blazing color, natch, and you guessed it, it'll set you back a hundred and fifty pennies, but the Bob Larkin cover *alone* is worth the price. Inside, Reliable RALPH MACCHIO, Jet-propelled JOHN ROMITA, JR. and Trailblazin' TONY DEZUNIGA have combined to create a sizzling story with absolutely unbelievable visuals! We've sworn not to reveal the stunning *shock-ending* of the tale, but we didn't promise not to tell about the magnificent bonus *fold-out-poster* in each and every copy. You've got to see it to believe it, but unless you hurry up and grab one, they'll all be *gone*!

ITEM! *Still* more? You bet! We've got yet *another* Super Special (#8) coming out any minute, but the whole project is so darn *secret* we dare not to do more than mention it! A word to the wise—watch your TV listings and your local newsstand for BATTLE STAR GALACTICA! Nuff said!

ITEM! Just in case you think we've forgotten our roots, we hasten to reassure you that yes, we still publish our regular line of 35¢ color comics—and make no mistake, we love 'em best of all! We haven't lost our sense of wonder, nor our pride in the magnificent magazines that made Marvel! Check out Daredevil #156 if you don't believe us, and prepare to be *dazzled* by the Gene Colan/Klaus Janson art! And there's a whole new team giving BLACK PANTHER #13 a whole new look that's really *worth* a look! FANTASTIC FOUR #202 features the most demanded guest-penciller ever, (guess who!) and it's just plain great! And if you haven't noticed X-MEN lately, you're missing the most talked about ever-unfolding epic since the Iliad! In this day and age, who'd have believed that 35¢ could still buy all that excitement! So what are you waiting for?